

Subject: The RYS Daily 4/19/07 Rabbi Nahum Zev Zissel's Contribution

From The History of the Musar Movement 1840 - 1945 by Lester Samuel Eckman, Sheingold Publishers, 1975, pages 108 - 109.

#### Rabbi Nahum Zev Zissel's Contribution

Rabbi Nahum Zev Zissel followed in the footsteps of Rabbi Salanter in his involvement in communal problems. Rabbi Zissel was a merchant all his life; nevertheless, he devoted six hours a day to the study of Torah and morality. He made time in his heavy schedule to visit the sick in the hospital each Sunday. His business acumen was made available to businessmen with serious financial difficulties.

During the First World War, Rabbi Zissel saved the entire city of Kelm from destruction by advising the inhabitants not to panic and run as the enemy approached. In Koenigsburg, he taught a Talmud class, and his spiritual and moral influence was great, particularly among the aristocratic German Jews. In 1910, he and his brother-in-law, Rabbi Zvi Broida, headed the Talmudical Academy of Kelm without drawing a salary. Rabbi Zissel showed remarkable skill for teaching and instilling morality in his students.

Rabbi Jeruham Levovitz, dean of the Mir Rabbinical Seminary, praised Rabbi Zissel as follows: "Through his wisdom and power of speech he was able to draw the whole world to morality, but he was very humble and thought of himself as unfit for such a task."

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